



FOUNDED 1966  
PATRON: Randolph Churchill III

## THE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SOCIETY OF CALGARY

### *Fall 2017 Newsletter*

Dear members of the Churchill Society,

I hope early autumn finds you well. On behalf of your board, I would like to update you on our upcoming events this fall, our call for volunteers, results of the spring poll of the membership and provide a glimpse of the board's plans for 2018.

#### **Volunteers**

Our spring survey indicated a large proportion— 59% of respondents—indicated they would be willing to volunteer for Society activities. That is a superb endorsement of the Society's value to you as members. I have already contacted those who added their names and e-mails on the survey forms. If you would like to volunteer, Please feel free to contact me at [mmilke@telus.net](mailto:mmilke@telus.net) or 403-510-6270. Board service, help with events and with Churchill High School debates are all options. On board positions, do call or e-mail me soon as our AGM is at the end of November and positions are open.

#### **October 24th Scotch Social**

Our fall scotch social will take place at the Mewata Armoury at 801-11 St. S.W. on Tuesday October 24 starting at 5:30 p.m. Historian David Finch will give a talk on Churchill's 1929 visit to Alberta and the local response to Churchill in return.

It is a great opportunity to hear an interesting speaker and to socialize with fellow members and guests. The cost is \$20 at the door (cash or cheque), and we will have scotch, wine and beer and light snacks. Dress is business (no jeans please); Churchill Society members, guests and anyone interested in Churchill are all invited to attend. You may RSVP online at [www.winstonchurchillab.org/](http://www.winstonchurchillab.org/).

Of note, books on the Churchill Society's history at \$25 each or \$45 for the pair and our newest product, cufflinks for \$40 a pair, will be available for purchase at the social. Your main contact for the event is Mr. Devin Iversen at [iversend@gmail.com](mailto:iversend@gmail.com).

#### **November 25<sup>th</sup>: Sir Winston Churchill High School debates**

Society board member Ms. Elisa Frank is again helping out local organizers of the Sir Winston Churchill High School debates, to be held on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a

key focus for the Churchill Society. Volunteers who wish to help judge individual debates are welcome. To help Elisa out, please contact her at [elisa.frank@gov.ab.ca](mailto:elisa.frank@gov.ab.ca).

### **November 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and speaker Felix Klos**

The annual meeting will take place on Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Ranchmen's Club starting at 5:00 p.m. This year, after the AGM, we are fortunate to have a talk from Dr. Felix Klos, a Dutch historian whose forthcoming book *Churchill's Last Stand* tells the story of Churchill's advocacy for a more united Europe.

From the author:

Fighting against the new 'Iron Curtain' which had fallen across the world, and battling the personal disappointment of losing the 1945 election in Britain, Churchill dedicated the rest of his life to forging a united Europe. Through Churchill's private papers I have attempted to unveil his personal battle to regain his place in world affairs, his confidential conversations with European leaders and the thinking and preparation behind some of his most powerful speeches. The book is both a history of Europe after the war and a new glimpse at one of its greatest statesmen.

Please note that the AGM will begin at 5:00 p.m. sharp, in the North Lounge, with hors d'oeuvres and drinks available, followed by the address by Dr. Klos.

Briefly, on items to be discussed at the AGM: the 2016/17 financial statements, board plans for the future, as well as the election for directors and a glimpse of plans for 2018.

If you would like to serve on the board, please contact me at [mmilke@telus.net](mailto:mmilke@telus.net).

### **November 30<sup>th</sup> Moot Court**

Churchill Society board member Professor Lori Williams is again helping to facilitate student moot court debates at the court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>, with moot sessions running concurrently starting at 4:00 p.m. Lori can be reached at [LWilliams@mtroyal.ca](mailto:LWilliams@mtroyal.ca).

### **The spring survey: Notable results**

You may recall that a spring survey sent to members by mail and by e-mail. The full results of the spring 2017 membership survey can be found in the separate attachment, or enclosed if you received this by mail.

One notable result was that 58% of members who responded wished to see one major event a year along several smaller events, while 17% of respondents preferred just one major event and 17% preferred two major events.

In response, the board decided to hold one major dinner annually and several smaller events in most years, with exceptions where we have the opportunity to host a Churchill family member or other "can't miss" keynote speakers. Thus no autumn dinner was planned for 2017. Instead, the board and other volunteers will work to make the spring 2018 dinner a well-attended and successful event, as per years past.

## **2018 events for your calendar**

**February:** The Society plans host a Scotch Social, likely in late February. Please watch your e-mail or mailbox for a notice in mid-January 2018.

**June:** Baron Watson of Richmond, a former president of the British Liberal Party, will be our keynote speaker for our 52<sup>nd</sup> annual black tie dinner. The exact date is yet to be determined in conjunction with the Vancouver and Edmonton Churchill chapters. We expect the Calgary dinner will be held between June 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. An e-mail will be sent out as soon as a final date is confirmed.

### ***Your involvement –thank you***

Thank you for your continued membership renewals, ticket purchases, additional charitable contributions and involvement. Please know that your support allows the Society to continue in a healthy financial state and to sponsor important events and future leaders, such as those participating in the Churchill high school debates.

In specific, I would like to thank the following for their service and commitment; Mr. Randy Iversen for his work in mailing out our notices and much else; Mr. Devin Iversen and Ms. Christina Iversen for their indispensable help with the Scotch socials; volunteers Mr. Colin Craig and Mr. John Whittaker for help with the upcoming scotch social; Ms. Elisa Frank for her coordination with teachers and others involved in the high school debates; and Ms. Lori Williams for her continued involvement and coordination with the moot court debates—and all the board members and volunteers for their time and thoughts..

Lastly, let us remember why Churchill matters. In the new book, *Churchill and Orwell: The Fight for Freedom* by Thomas Ricks summarized their impact on our world:

On the surface, the two men were quite different.... [but] they responded with the same qualities and the same tools—their intellects, their confidence in their own judgments even when their judgments were rebuked by most of their contemporaries, and their extraordinary skills with words. And both steered by the core principles of liberal democracy: freedom of thought, speech, and association.

Mr. Ricks is indeed correct and his observation is why the mission and work of the Churchill Society is so valuable. Thank you again for your continued support and membership. On behalf of the board, and I look forward to seeing many members on October 24th.

Best regards,

Mark Milke  
President  
Sir Winston Churchill Society of Calgary